with a view to discourage non-serious candidates for filing nominations and contesting elections. The Bill was examined by the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice which in its report *Inter alia* observed as under, — "The Committee feels that the proposed amendment will, to a certain extent, discourage such non serious candidates, it endorses the amendment".

National Judicial Commission

3255. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up a National Judicial Commission;

(b) if so, the details of its constitution, terms of reference, jurisdiction and powers; and

(c) which authority has been designated as appellate authority against the decisions of the National Judicial Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Setting up of more courts

†3256. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has stressed upon increasing the number of courts in the country;

(b) whether Government has realized the need to set up at least 100 CBI courts; and

(c) if so, the steps being contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court has informed that the Chief Justice of India while speaking at the official functions organized by different bodies including Bar Associations and Government organizations, has repeatedly stressed upon increasing the number of courts in the country. The Government has decided to set up 71 additional Special Courts for trial of cases investigated by the CBI.

National Judicial Commission

3257. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: (a) the main highlights of the Constitution 98th Amendment Bill seeking to create a National Judicial Commission;

(b) whether, in view of recent events at Allahabad, Punjab and Chennai High Courts, it is the right time to debate and decide up on the matter concerning the Commission; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The main highlights of the Constitution (98th Amendment) Bill, 2003 were as under:—

The National Judicial Commission was to consist of the Chief Justice of India as Chairman, two Senior-most Judges of the Supreme Court of India, Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Law and Justice and one eminent citizen to be nominated by the President of India. The Chief Minister of the State and the Chief Justice of the High Court were to be added to the Commission for appointment/transfer of Judges of High Courts.

Main functions of the Commission were (i) to make recommendations for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts, (ii) to make recommendations for the transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts and (iii) to inquire into cases of misconduct or such deviant behaviour of a Judge, *suo-moto* or on a complaint or reference other those calling for his removal and advise the Chief Justice of India or the Chief Justice of a High Court after such inquiry.

The Constitution (98th Amendment) Bill, 2003 lapsed with the dissolution of the 13th Lok Sabha in February, 2004.

(b) and (c) The Government is preparing a road map for judicial reforms in the Country for which wide consultations have already began.

National Mineral Policy

3258. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Policy, being formulated to overrule an outdated mining law of 1957, would extend to unorganized mines that are viable;

(b) if so, whether efforts are on to update Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957;

(c) by when the new policy is likely to be announced; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The Government has enunciated the new National Mineral Policy, 2008, taking into consideration the views of mineral bearing States. The new Policy has enunciated policy measures like assured right to next stage mineral concession, transferability of mineral concessions and transparency in allotment of concessions, in order to reduce delays which are seen as impediments to investment and technology flow in the mining sector in India. The Mining policy also seeks to develop a sustainable framework for optimum utilisation of the country's natural mineral resources for the